

FICTIVE KIN AS VIABLE PLACEMENT OPTION, SAFETY, & WELL-BEING



2015 Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Definition of Fictive Kin

- ▶ Any individual, unrelated by birth or marriage, who is shown to have close personal or emotional ties with the child or the child's family prior to the child's placement with the individual.
[20 ILCS 505.7(b)]

Family Centered

- ▶ **Formal Support:** (including but not limited to) placement, backup placement, extended respite;
- ▶ **Natural Support:** (including but not limited to) short term respite, mentoring, coaching parents, child care, transportation to services, supervise visitation; and/or
- ▶ **Informal Support:** (including but not limited to) phone calls, cards for special occasions, provide family photographs, offer emotional support, plan outings, celebrate important events in a child's life.

Child Identified Collateral and Fictive Kin



Ask each child (when verbal) about each relative named by the parent who may be a placement resource. Ask how the child knows the person and if they feel safe and trust that person.

Responsibilities for the CPSW

- **Ask the parents whether there are persons that may be willing and able to serve as Safety Plan resources or positive supports for the child**
- **Ask the parents and/or child to identify grandparents and other relatives on both the maternal and paternal sides of the family**
- **Document telephone numbers, postal and email addresses, if any, obtained for each relative on the CFS 458-B, Relative Placement Resources and Positive Supports**

Out of Home Safety Plan or Placement

If the child does not know, trust or feel safe with a person named by the parent, the worker shall not place the child with that person. The Placing Worker and Supervisor shall convene a supervisory staffing to discuss the child's feelings, and determine and validate the child's concerns. The Supervisor shall make a Critical Decision regarding placement of the child with that relative and document the decision in a supervisory note.